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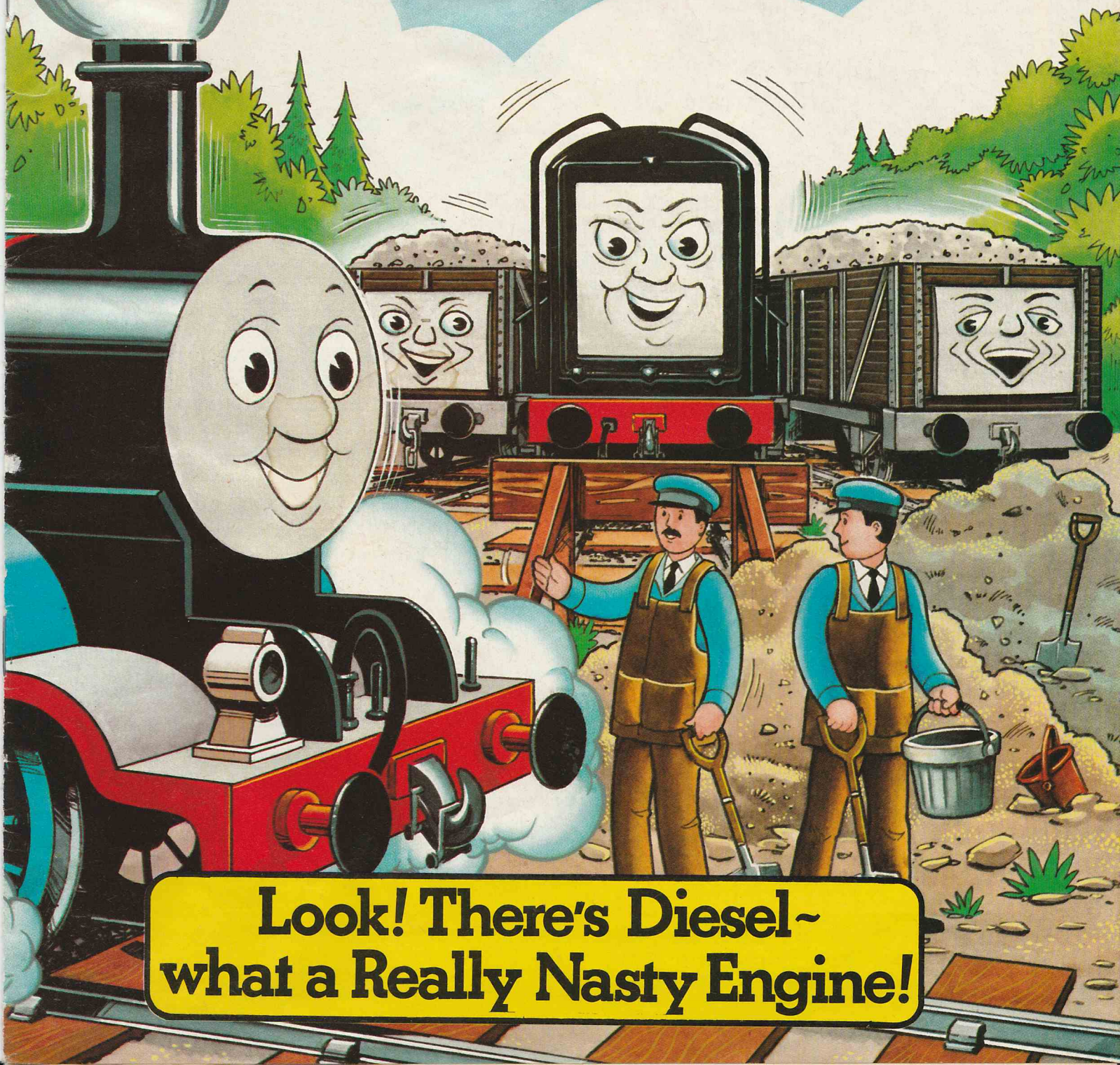
No 41 40p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

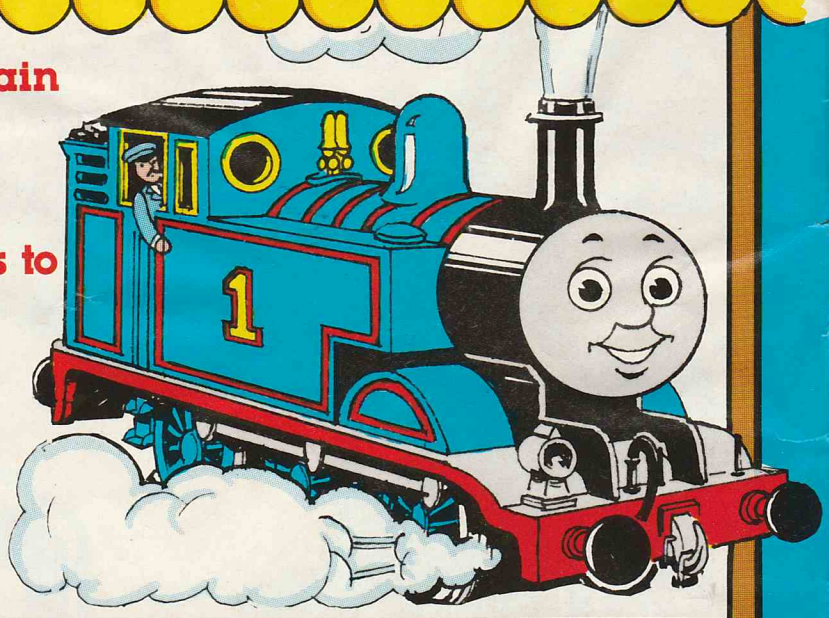
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

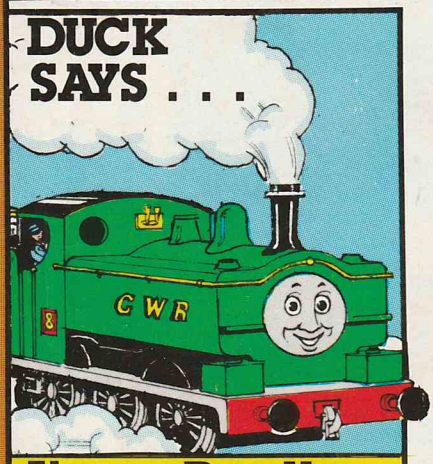


Look! There's Diesel~ what a Really Nasty Engine!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Oh dear! Once again Diesel is being a very nasty, scheming engine. In the story which starts on the next page you can read how he manages to annoy all the steam engines. Don't miss our second story either – it's all about some visitors who are trying to buy Thomas and take him away with them! That would never do! Peep! Peep!





I'm a Really Helpful Engine!

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Take out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and every issue will be sent straight to your home for one full year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Just turn to page 7 for more details.

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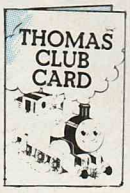
There is another way of joining the Thomas Club without taking out a year's subscription. All you have to do is collect 3 tokens like the one on the bottom of this page. Send one yellow, one red and one green token, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

You will receive your very own special black and white membership card plus number!



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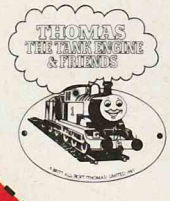
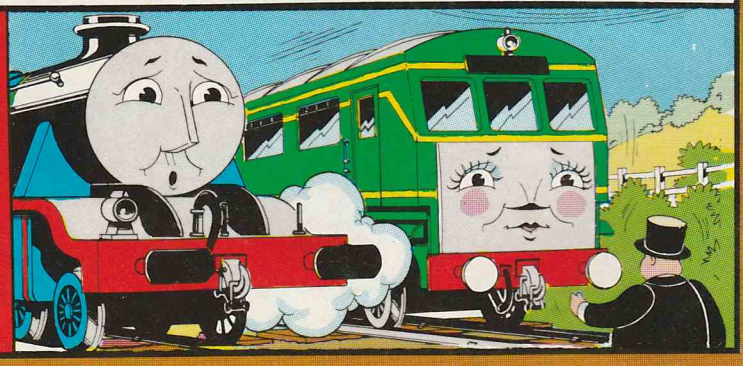


In our next issue: An important visitor arrives on the Island of Sodor!



THOMAS TOKEN

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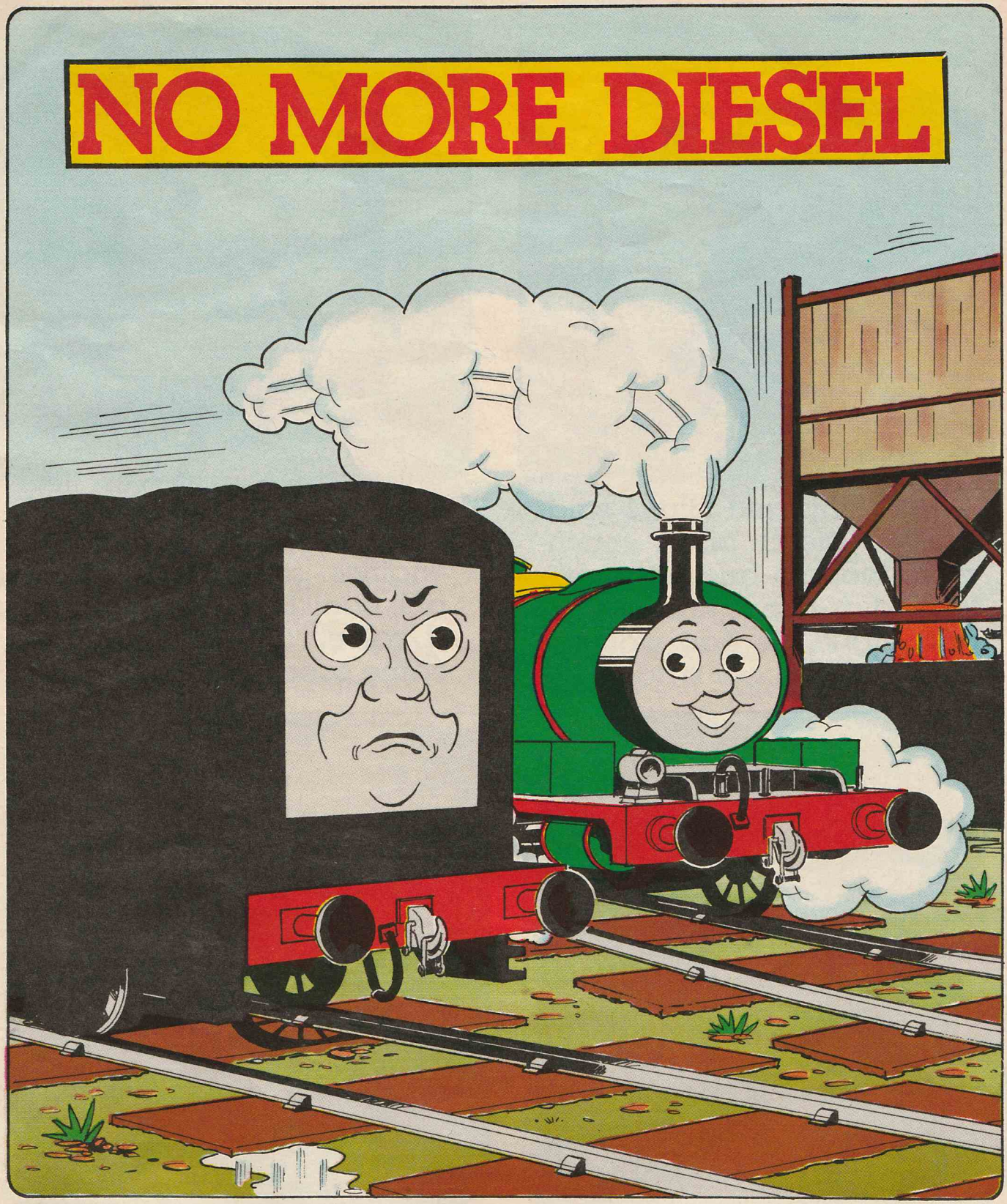
ABC

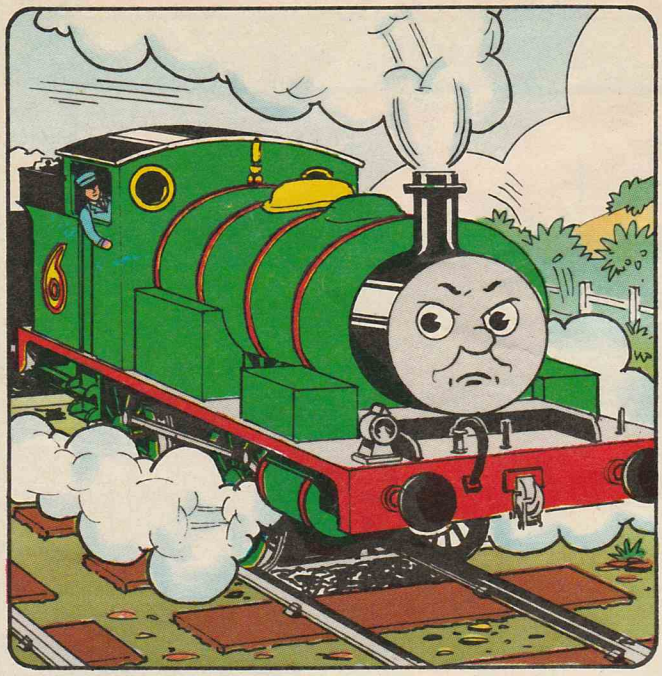
A listen and look story!

NO MORE DIESEL

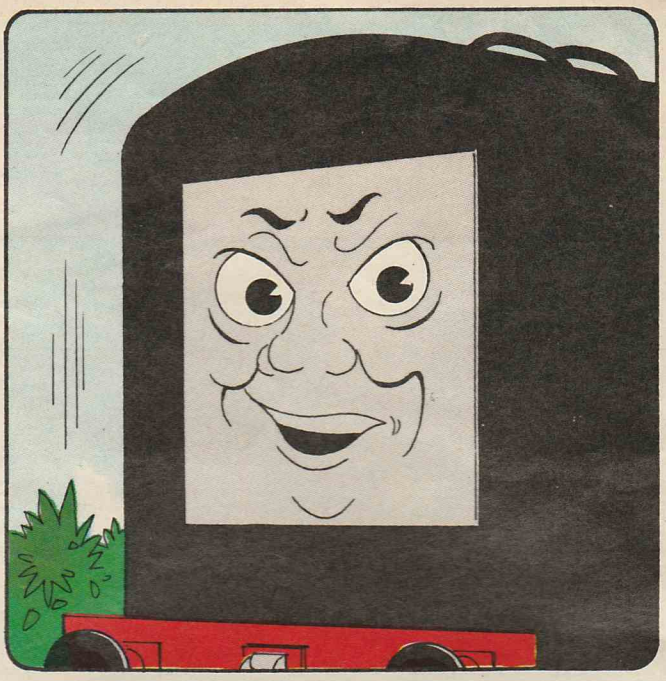


1. One day a shipment of coal arrived on the Island of Sodor. It was unloaded into trucks to be taken to the big station for the use of the steam engines.

2. Diesel was supposed to take the train. "Coal?!" he complained. "Do you expect me to pull a train load of coal?" "What's wrong with coal?" asked Percy.

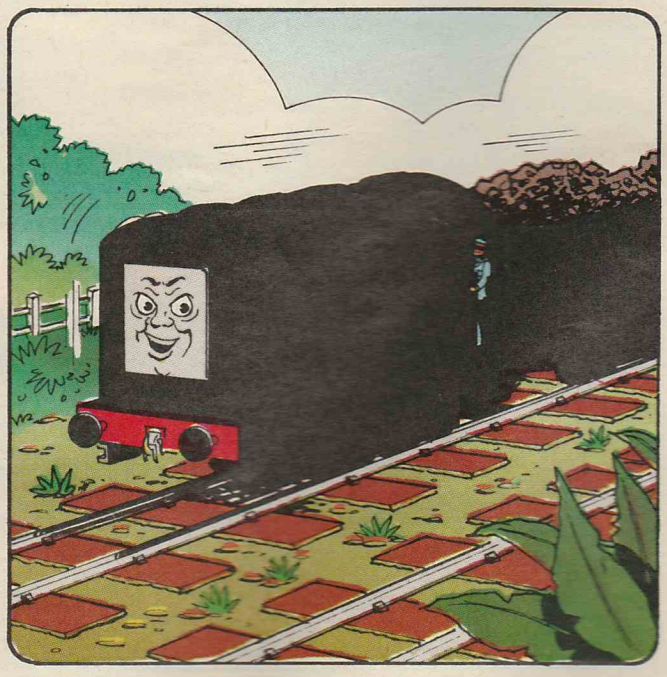


3. "It's filthy and dirty," said Diesel. "Diesel oil is much more modern and efficient!" Percy didn't have time to stay and argue. He had work to do in the harbour yard.

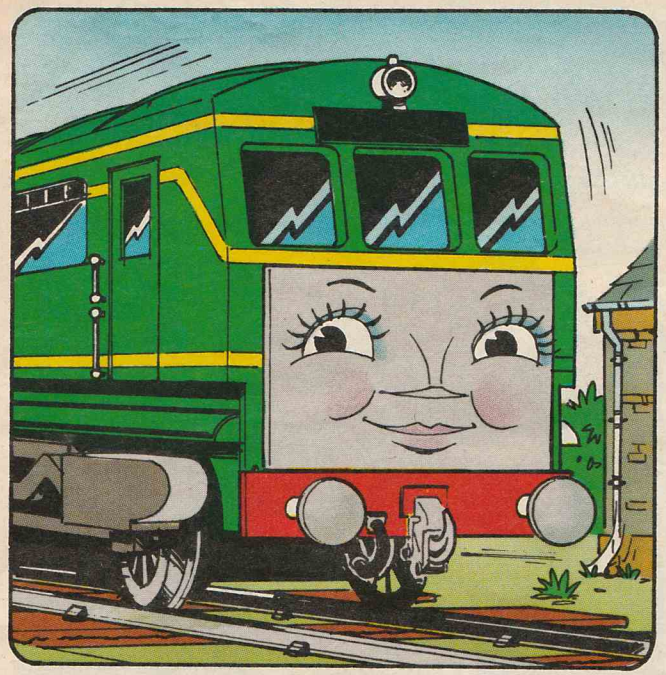


4. Diesel wouldn't budge. "I won't pull it," he said. "Diesel engines shouldn't have to pull coal! I would rather bust a valve!" The Stationmaster came over.

5. "Stop all this fuss!" he said. "Either you pull that train, or I call the Fat Controller." "All right," sighed Diesel. He didn't want to be sent away again.



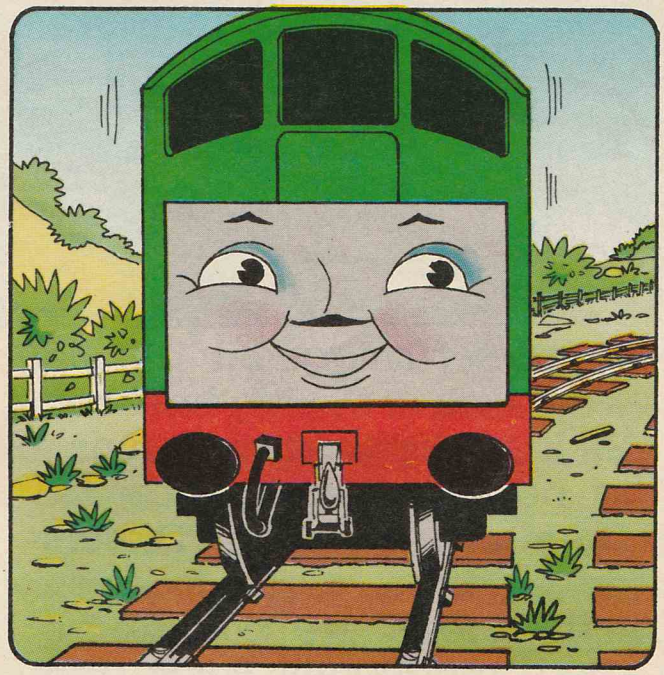
6. Diesel grumbled all the way to the big station. When he arrived, he saw Daisy, the Diesel Railcar. "Hullo," he said. "I see they've been modernising things here."



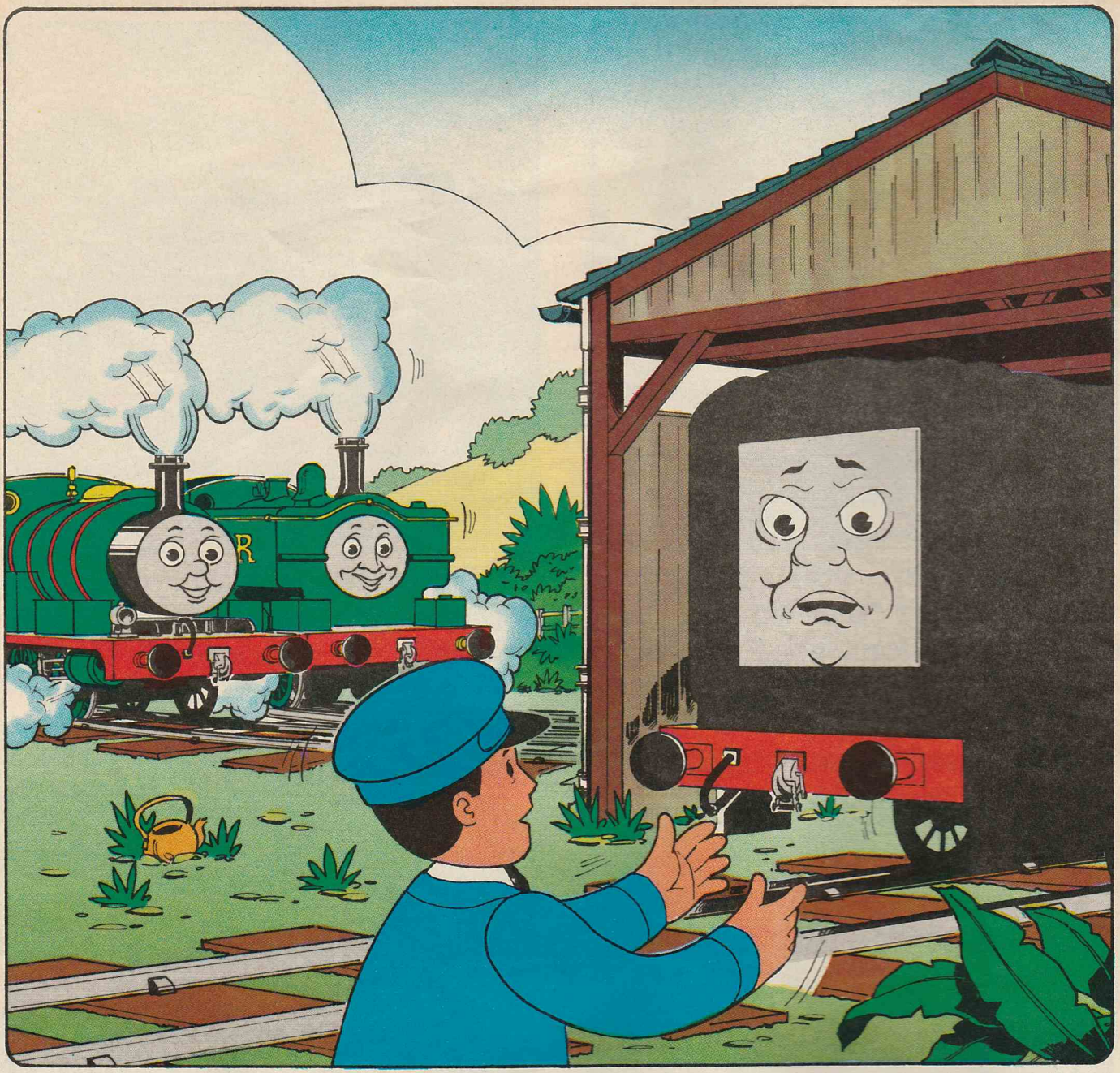
7. "What do you mean?" asked Daisy. "You do run on diesel oil, don't you?" asked Diesel. "Oh yes," said Daisy. "I'm highly sprung and right up to date." Diesel smiled.

8. "Precisely," said Diesel. "Diesel is the latest thing. Coal is so outdated." "And dirty too," agreed Daisy. The steam engines were beginning to get annoyed.

9. "What's all this nonsense about diesel?" asked James. "All the finest engines run on coal," added Gordon. "We have never heard any complaints about it before!"



10. "I don't like to argue," said Boco. "But I must say diesel is the future." Soon all the engines in the yard were arguing about which was better, diesel or coal.



11. Diesel sniggered all the way back to the big harbour. He thought it was very funny to hear the engines argue. Then one morning, Diesel's driver didn't come to fetch him. Diesel waited in the shed impatiently. Percy and Duck were already out and about. Whenever they passed by the shed they giggled. Diesel wanted to go out too.

12. At last his driver came. "I'm sorry, but you can't come out today, Diesel," he said. "There's no diesel on the island. The shipment has been delayed. It might be a couple of days." Daisy and Boco were in the same situation. It wasn't much use being modern without diesel. They wished they could run on coal for a day or two!

THE END

There's another story on page 17!

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.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

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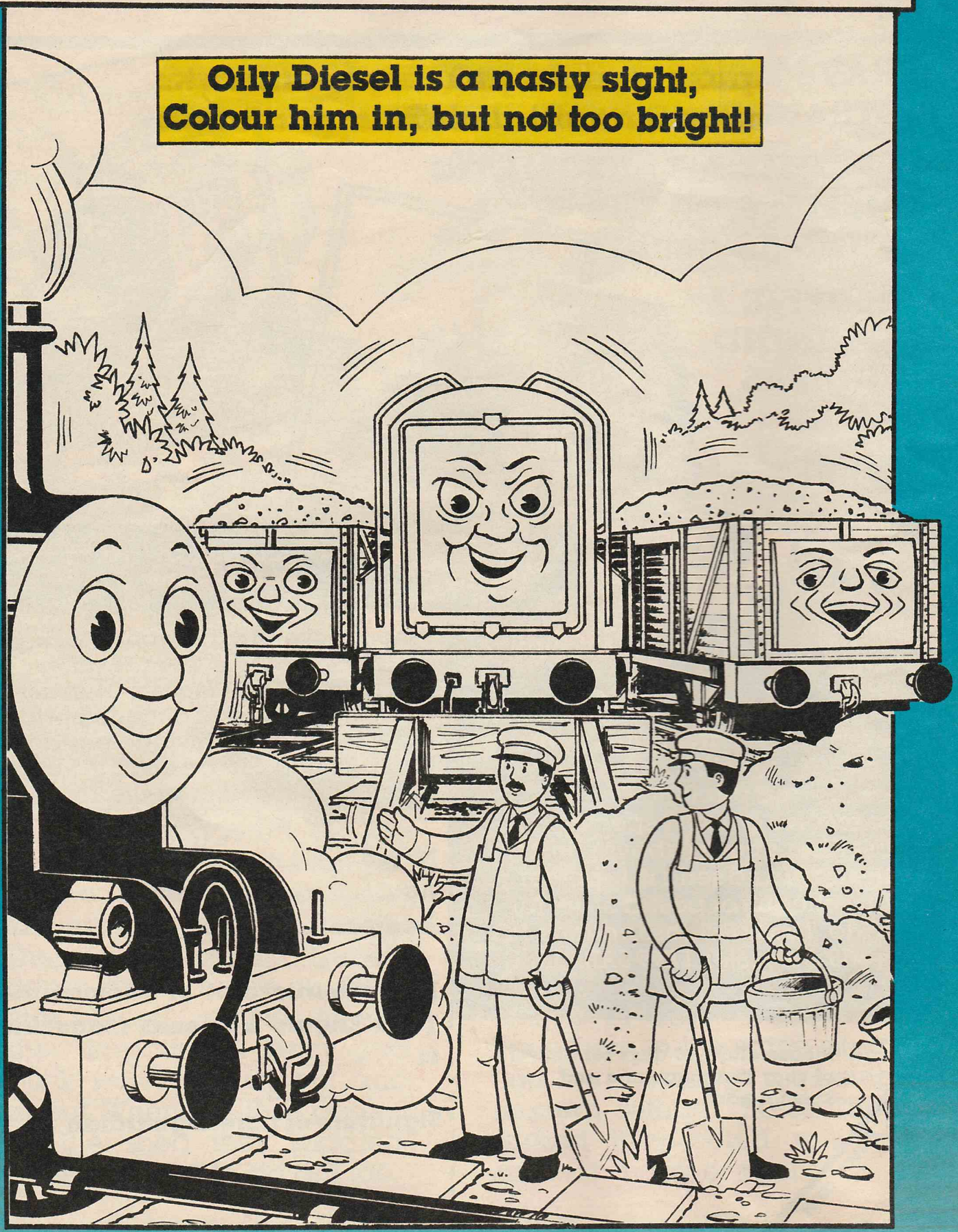
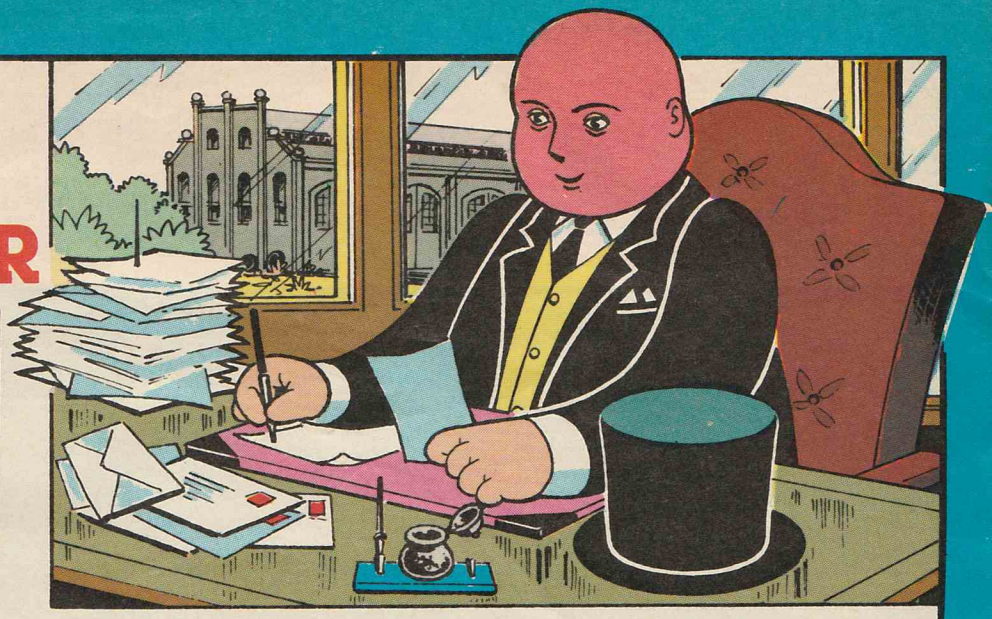
COLOURING TIME!

Oily Diesel is a nasty sight,
Colour him in, but not too bright!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,

I have just won a Seahorse badge for swimming. Can you swim?

Love, **Guy**, aged 4.

Yes, indeed I can, and in fact I am helping my grandchildren to learn on Sunday mornings. Everyone should learn to swim, don't you agree?

Guy wins a set of Thomas vinyl stickers, from Scorpio Products International Ltd.

CHEEKY THOMAS!

Dear Fat Controller,

I like Thomas because he is cheeky to the big engines. So is Toby.

Love, **Michael**, aged 6.

Yes, I am afraid Thomas is a little cheeky at times.

DRESSED FOR SCHOOL!

Dear Fat Controller,

I have a Thomas the Tank Engine scarf and gloves. I wear them to school when it is cold. Did you go to school once?

Love, **Bobby** (16376).

Yes, many years ago. I remember running off to go train spotting every day as soon as school was over, you know.

POOR HENRY?

Dear Fat Controller,

Why is Henry always saying that he suffers from something and that no one cares about him?

From **John Wrightson**, aged 4.

Henry is highly strung and can be rather nervous and ill at times. We all care about him very much and make sure that he has very special black coal from Wales.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go to:

Claire Tinsley, Robert, Kevin Prodhoe, James McGukin, Robert Johnson (3807), Christopher Noakes (7020), Philip Power (22074), Stuart Gardner (20528), Jason Pill, Shaun Banham, Steven Dunsmore, Hardy (9048), Gary Manning (2697), Katie Jones (24006), Grant Gelder (6737), Edward Barrett, Mark Weston, Andrew Sykes, Sarah Murphy, Adrian St George, Steven Hobin (25038), James Rafferty (14943), Christopher Causon (25527), Stephen Jeacock (0330), Laurence Garvey (10832), Michael Sexton, Julia Stokes, Lee Beattie (20768), Daniel Robinson (22215), Andrew Manning (13709), Ryan Christopher Hodson, Mark Worley (24086), Luke Spurr (25546), Lee James Jay, Michael Jennings (24310), and Adam Thompson (1029).

Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **8 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will do our best!

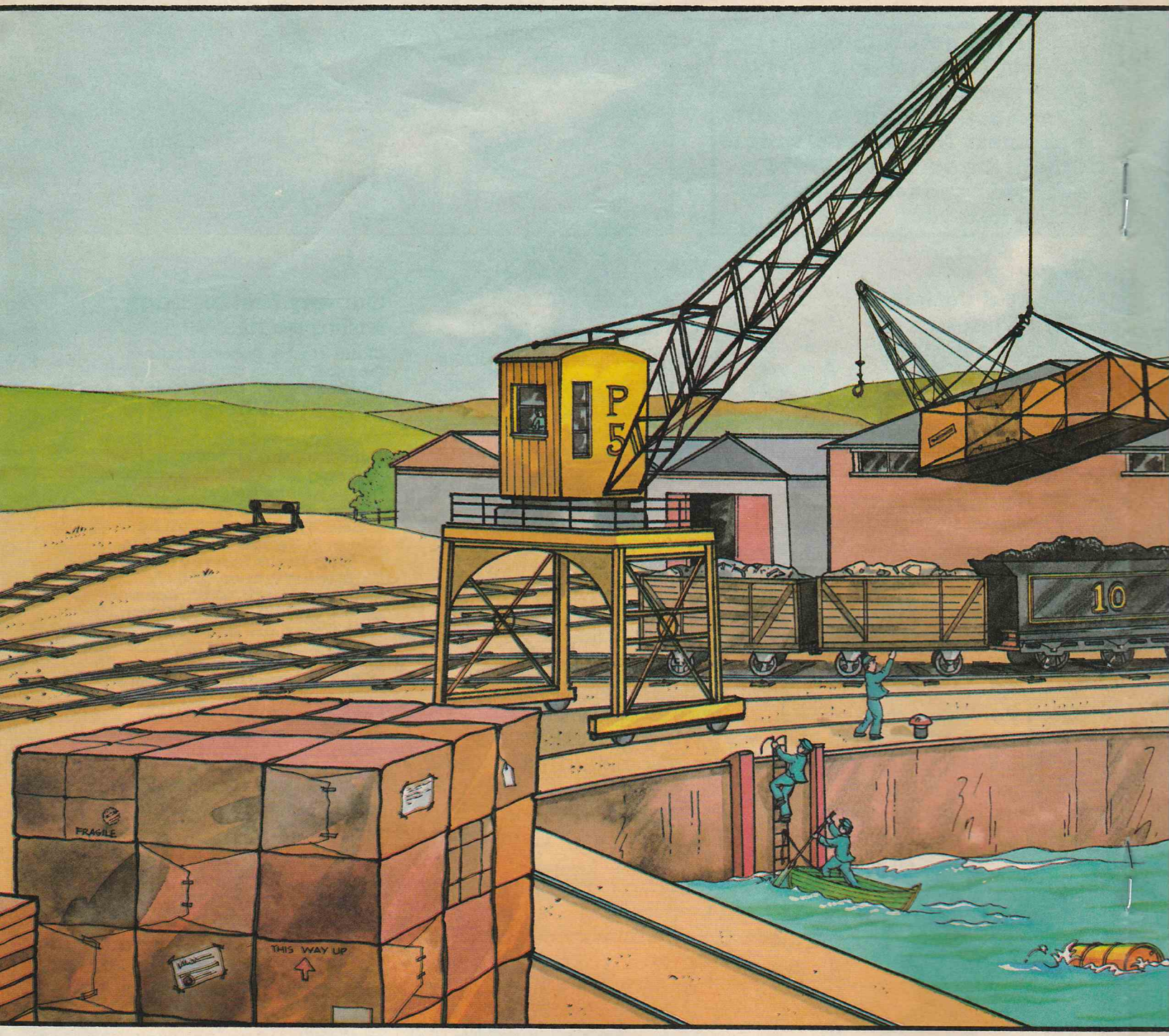
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Into the do



Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

Do you know who his twin brother is?

How many seagulls can you see?

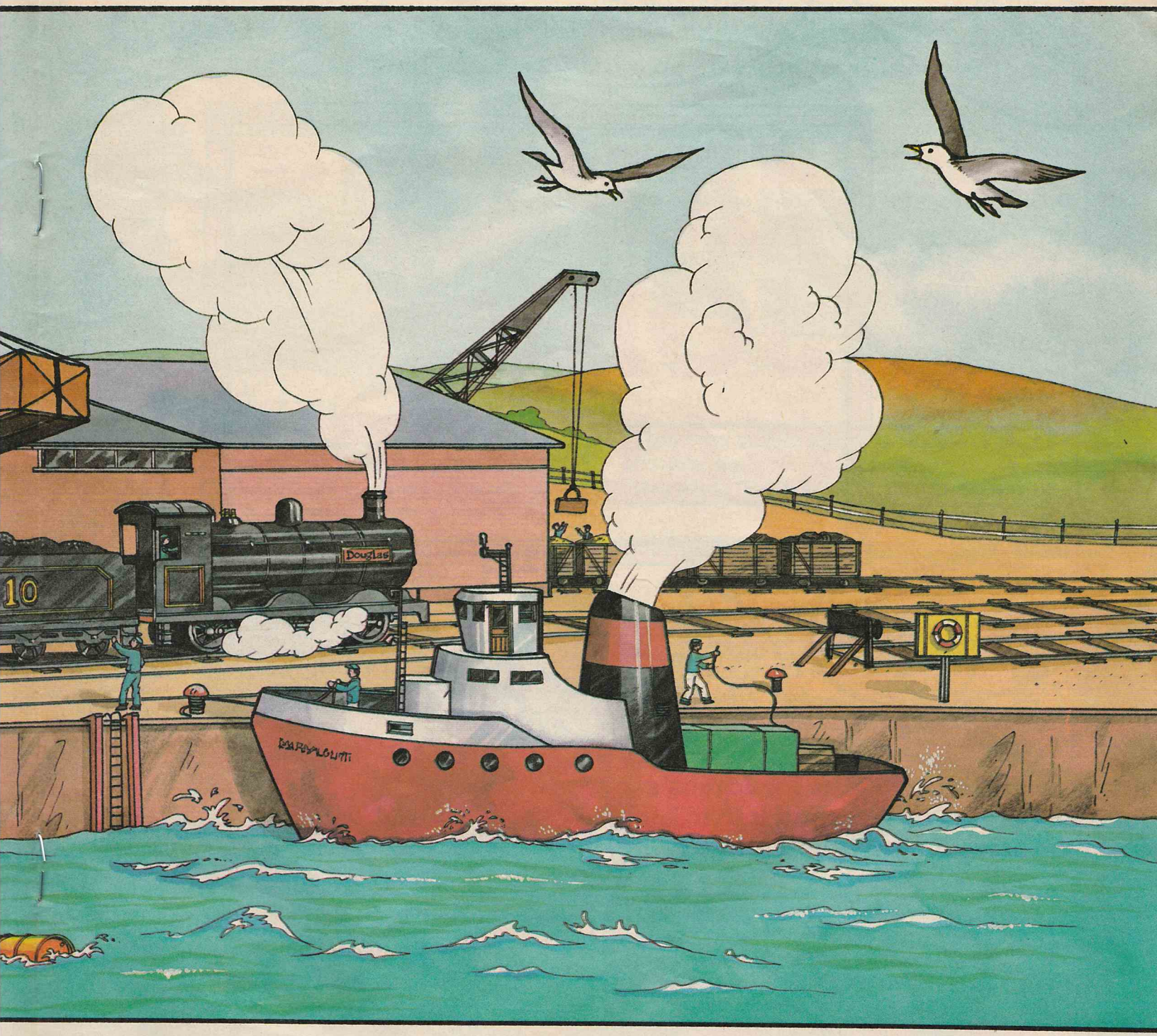
Point to the lifeb

Are the cranes li

What colour is th

Is there anybody

ocks!



lifebelt!

nes lifting things?

r is the big ship?

ybody in the rowing boat?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: On to the quay!

JAMES'S JOKE GALLERY!

What did one lift say to the other?
I think I'm coming down with something.
Mark, aged 6.

What is round and bad tempered?
A vicious circle!
Rachel, aged 7.

Why can't your nose be twelve inches long?
Because it would be a foot!
Michael, aged 7.

What is a river's favourite food?
Currants!
Ben, aged 7.

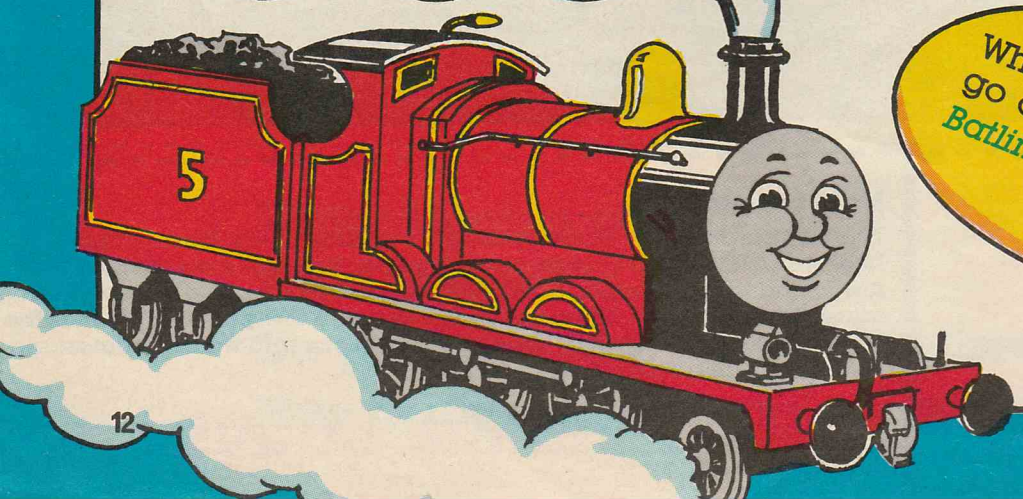
What do you call a clock on the moon?
A luna-tic!
Nadia, aged 4.

What does a mouse do in the day?
Mousework!
Alan, aged 6.

Where do tadpoles that lose their tails go?
To a retail shop!
Simon, aged 4.

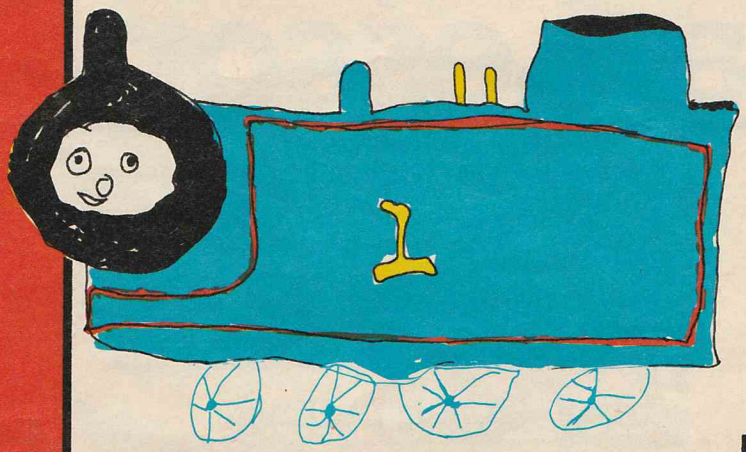
Have you got a good joke for James's Joke Gallery? Why not send it in to him at the address on the letters page?

Where do vampires go on their holidays?
Batlins!
Eric, aged 5.

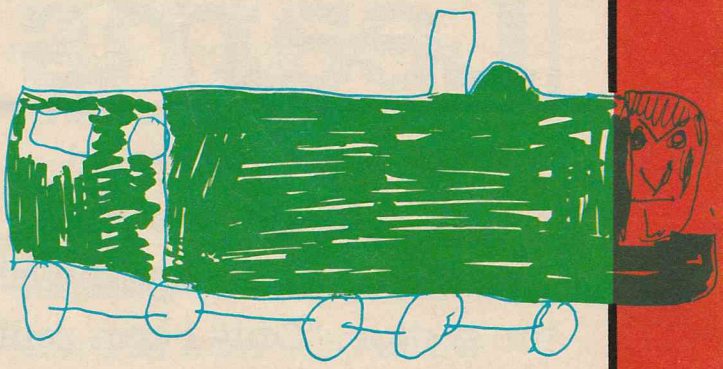


YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent us. Has yours been printed this week?

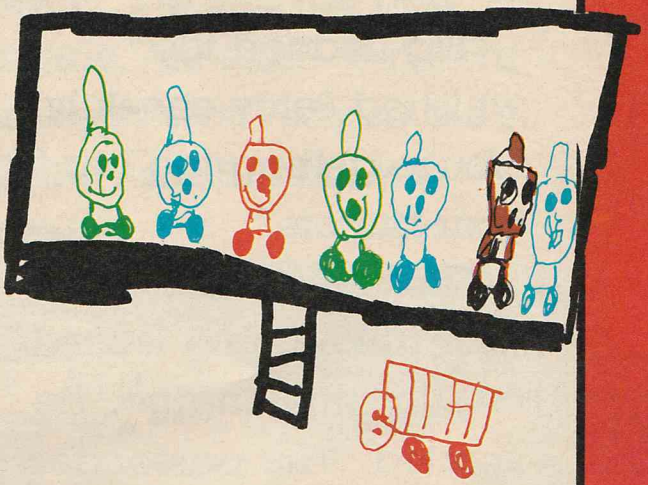


I'm sure that you will agree that this is a very smart looking picture of Thomas indeed! It was drawn by **Joanna Essex**, aged 6.



This very noble picture of Henry was drawn by **Kate Skinner,** from Norwich. Well done, Kate!

Here is Douglas going down a very steep hill! Can you see the points? This drawing was sent to us by **Louis Makiello,** aged 6, from Kent. His membership number is 22946.



Here is a grand picture of all the engines in their shed with Bertie the bus driving past outside. It was drawn by **James Quigg,** aged 5, from Co. Derry. His membership number is 11542.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one! If you would like to draw a picture for us, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

A read-aloud story!

Gordon Learns a Lesson

Gordon believed himself to be the very best engine at the station. "Only I can pull the Express," he would boast. "I'm the strongest, most splendid engine there is."

"Big-headed too," whistled Percy cheekily. "You're getting too big for your buffers."

Gordon was cross. He didn't like being teased.

"Silly little engine," he snorted. "The passengers prefer to ride with me. They know what a wonderful engine I am."

Gordon liked to look the best too. "The passengers mustn't see me dirty," he grumbled. "What would they think?"

So his guard gave him an extra polish to stop him fussing. "Come on, Gordon," said his driver. "You're pulling coaches today and you're late."

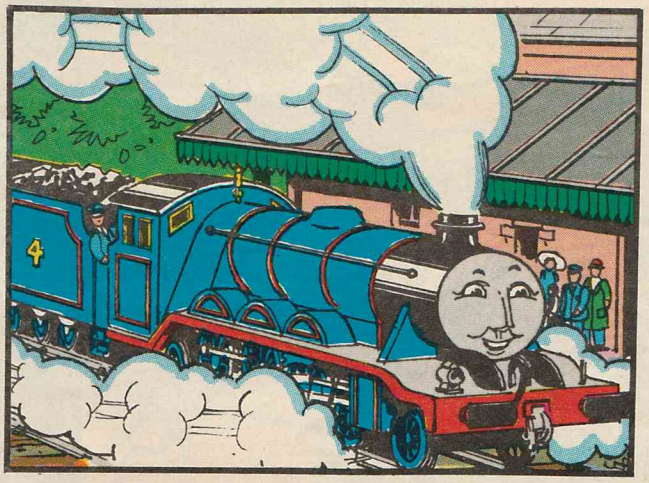
passengers

"Doesn't matter," said Gordon snootily. "I can always catch up. I'm a very fast engine."

But the passengers didn't like to be kept waiting. They began to grumble to

themselves.

"Stop moaning," said Gordon rudely when he arrived at the platform. "And hurry aboard. I've got work to do."



Gordon pulled out of the station, going faster and faster "I'll show the passengers how quick I am," he said.

Gordon went so fast the coaches rattled. Inside the coaches, bags fell off the luggage racks and hit the passengers on the head.

"Disgraceful," said a stout gentleman with a big moustache. "I shall complain about this."

The Fat Controller told Gordon off. "Don't let it happen again," he said.

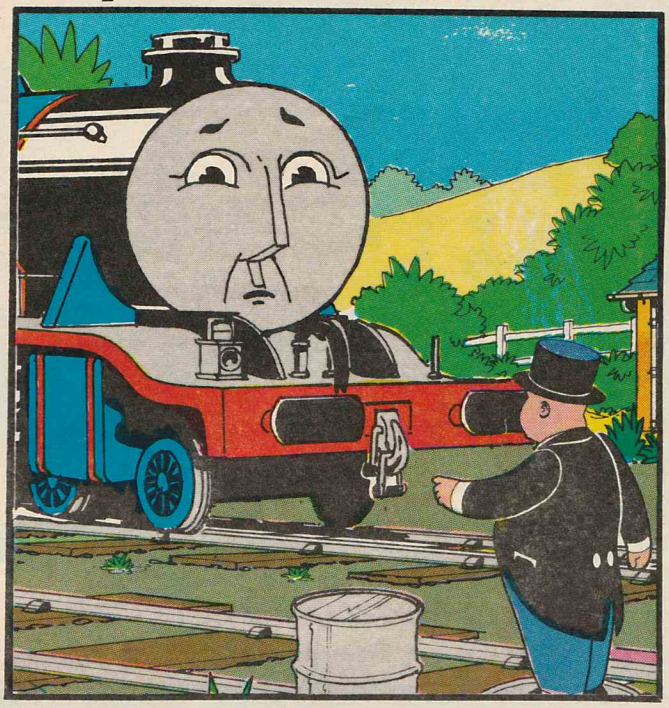
"Pah," said Gordon. "My passengers need me. I'm the smartest, fastest engine there is."

"We'd sooner have Thomas pull the coaches," a woman said. "He's not rude or big-headed."

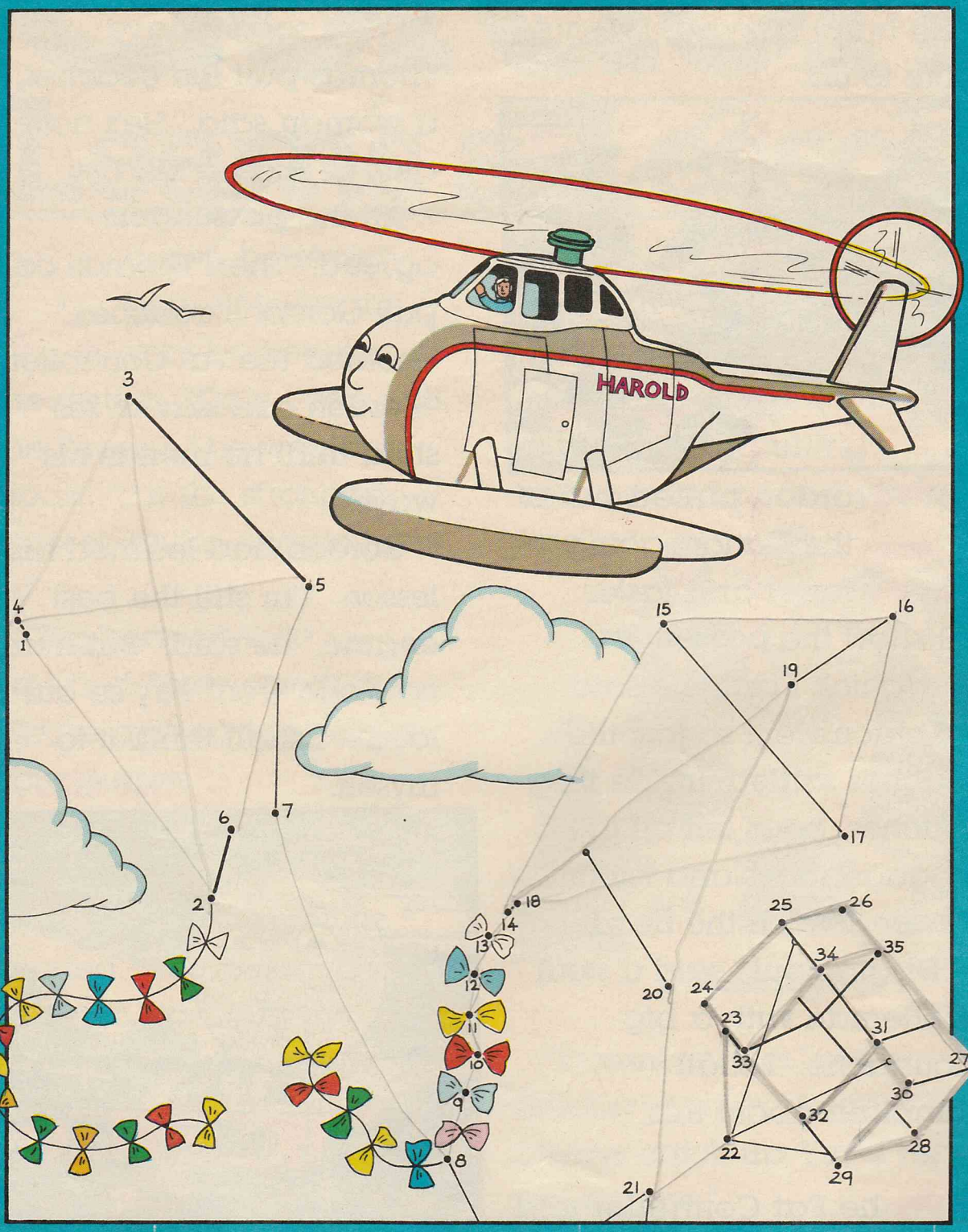
All the passengers agreed. "Then Thomas can pull Gordon's coaches," decided the Fat Controller. "Gordon can stay in his shed until he mends his ways."

Gordon had learned his lesson. "I'm still the best engine," he said. "But from now on I won't say so out loud – I shall think it to myself."

THE END

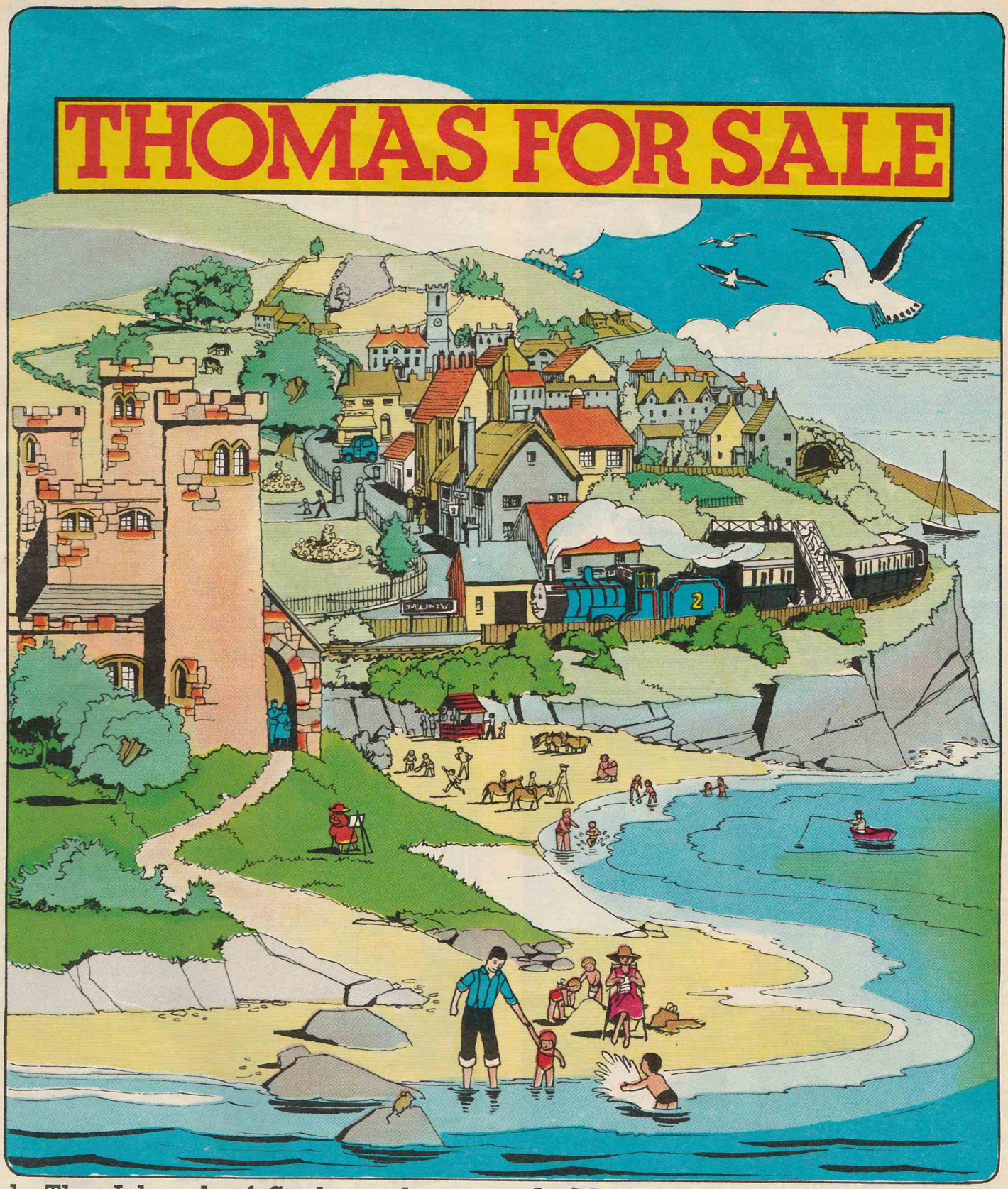


JOIN THE DOTS!



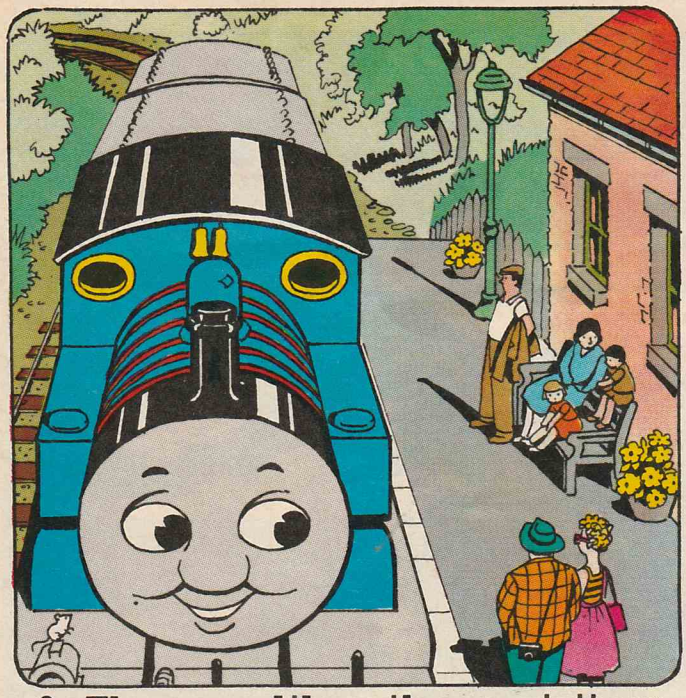
Flying high, in the sky – what can Harold see? Join the dots to find out!

There is a mouse in every picture! Can you spot them?

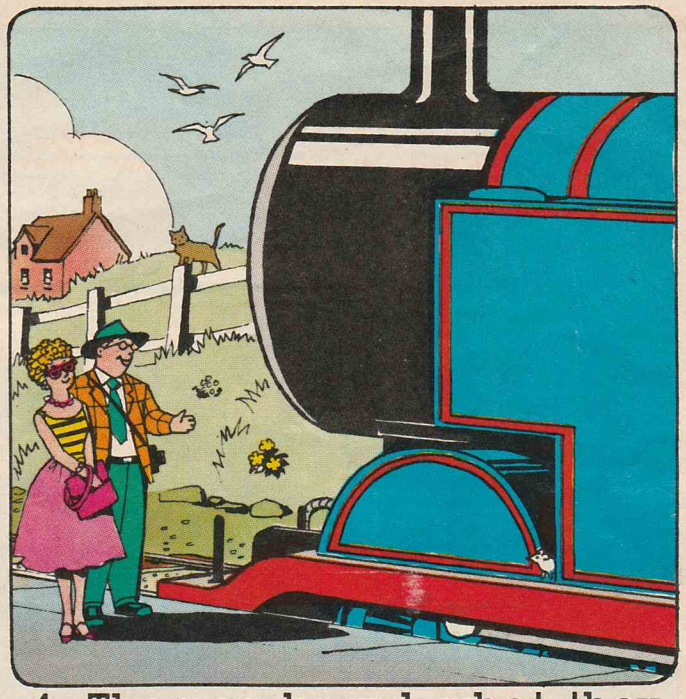


1. The Island of Sodor, where Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends live, is a very special place. As well as its railways it has beaches, interesting buildings and history.

2. Many people come to the Island of Sodor for their holidays to explore the Island or to relax. Most of the visitors have a ride on the Fat Controller's famous railway.

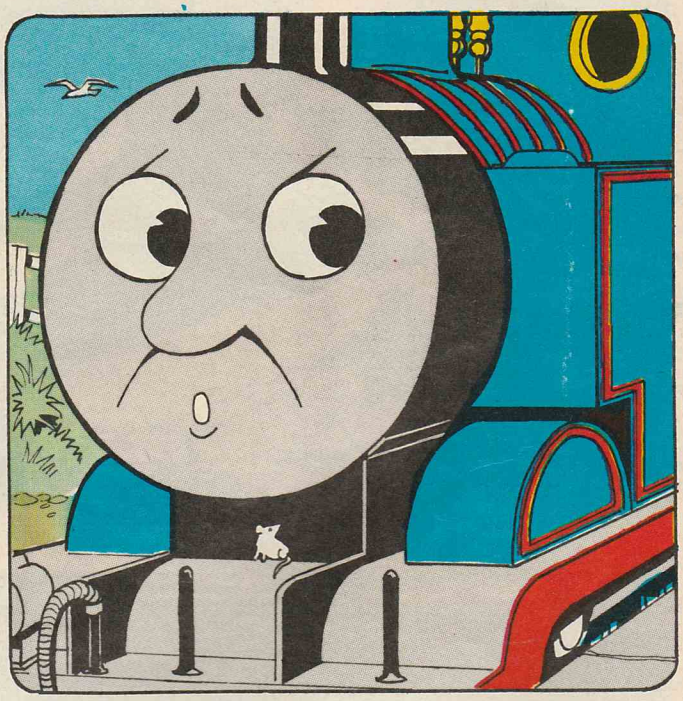


3. Thomas likes these visitors as he is always glad to meet new people. One day, as he was waiting at a station, he saw a couple looking at him and talking to each other.



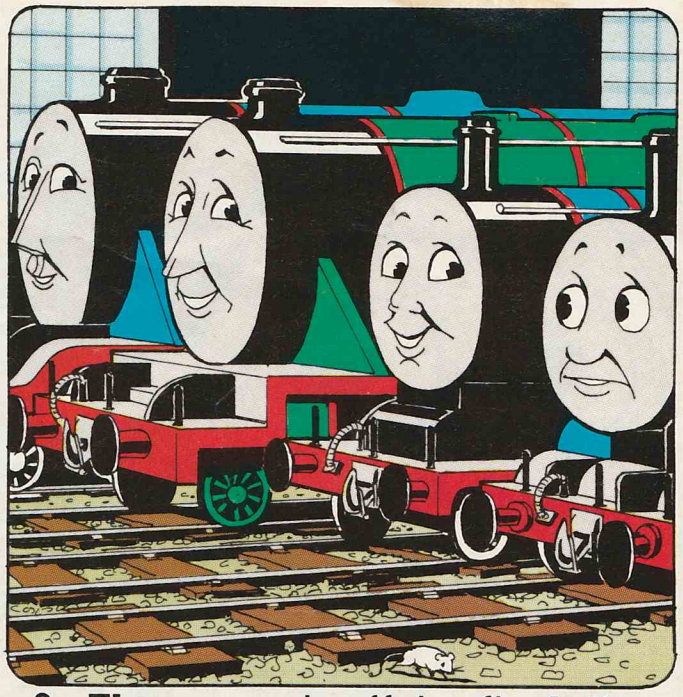
4. Thomas heard what they were saying: "Yes, that is a very good idea. A splendid blue engine like this one would be a great attraction at our park. Hmm . . ."

5. "Hello," said Thomas, "did you enjoy your ride?" "Very much, thank you," said the man. "In fact, we have decided to buy you and take you to our country."

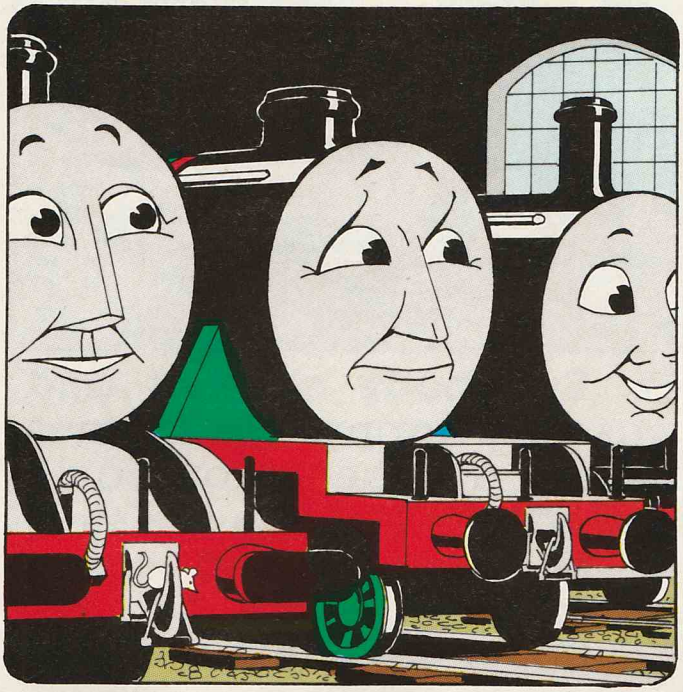


6. "Buy me?" said Thomas. "But I am not for sale! The Fat Controller says I am a Really Useful Engine. He would **never** sell me! Besides, I don't want to leave my friends!"

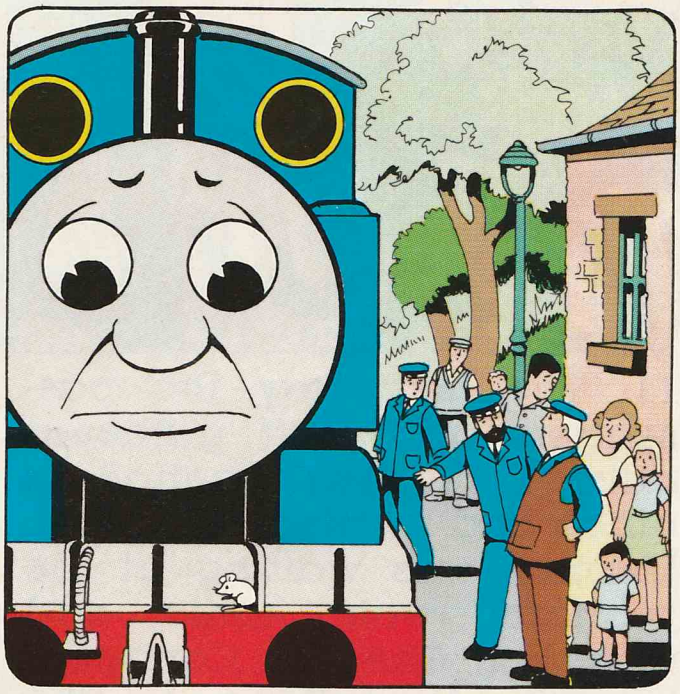
7. "Your Controller is a businessman," said the woman. "He will sell you if we offer enough money. Then we will take you away from this little Island!"



8. They went off to find the Fat Controller. Thomas felt very unsettled. That night he told the other engines. "I'm going to be sold and taken away," he said.



9. "We cannot have that!" said Gordon. "If Thomas is sold, we could all be sold and shipped away," said Henry. "The Fat Controller would never do it," said Edward.



10. "I hope not," said Thomas. "I would miss you all so much if I went away." Annie and Clarabel were very upset, so were all the engines, the staff and the passengers.

11. The next day the passengers and staff gathered outside the Fat Controller's office and waited for news. Thomas was waiting at the platform with Annie and Clarabel. The Fat Controller was inside talking to the visitors, then he came out on to the platform. "Do not look so worried!" he said. "I would never sell Thomas.

12. Everybody cheered and was very happy, but Thomas most of all. The visitors came and said to him "We are sorry if you were worried about being taken away. The Fat Controller has explained that you are needed here and now we think he is right." "The Fat Controller is always right," said Thomas and off he puffed.

THE END

More fun with Thomas in two weeks' time!